

Liberty Call

Military Appreciation Week 2001



U.S. Army photo

(Above) Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard proudly display the their service colors during the kickoff Military Appreciation week ceremonies onboard USS Missouri Memorial on May 17.

(Right) Marine Corps Major James Kennedy perform bagpipe music at the Military Appreciation week ceremonies onboard USS Missouri Memorial on May 17.



U.S. Army photo

MUSN Alaina Ilko plays her flute during the combined military band concert on May 19 at the Hawaii Theatre.



U.S. Army photo

Military Appreciation Week: Hawaii community offers thanks to servicemembers

THE local Hawaii community said “mahalo” recently to all of its Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen during the 16th annual Hawaii Military Appreciation Week May 17-26.

Opening ceremonies, hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps, were held on board the USS Missouri Memorial on May 17 and featured a reading of the Presentation of Proclamation by Governor of Hawaii Ben Cayetano and Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris.

In the proclamation, Cayetano spoke of the military as “part of Hawaii’s Ohana, part of its family,” and stated that he believes the military has made great contributions to what Hawaii is today.

“What you see in Hawaii today would not have happened, were it not for the presence of our military and the contributions of the many military that have become residents of this great state,” said Cayetano.

Representing Adm. Dennis Blair, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command at the opening ceremony was Deputy Commander in Chief, Pacific Command, Lt. Gen. Thomas

R. Case who read the acceptance speech.

Case expressed gratitude on behalf of the armed forces for the great “aloha” extended to servicemembers in Hawaii.

On May 19, corporate sponsor AT&T hosted a free combined military band concert at the historic Hawaii Theater. The best of Hawaii’s military bands performed Broadway tunes, hit songs, and military marches and ended with a musical salute to America’s Armed Forces.

“They only get together like this once a year and I think it is a real treat that it is open to the public,” said 65-year-old Oliver Brody a former Marine.

Other events that also honored Hawaii’s military on May 19 were: “Military Night” at the Polynesian Cultural Center; the 5th Annual Triathlon/Duathlon on Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe; “A Capital Day Down Capitol Way 2001,” which featured free tours of historic places surrounding the State Capitol; and “Living History Day” at the Hawaii Army Museum.

The next day, Bishop Museum hosted Family Sunday Island-Style Military Day. The day included tours of Bishop Museum as well as variety of activities that took place in the Xtreme Science Museum.

Attendees had the opportunity to study military displays, visit Planetarium shows and sample local Hawaiian crafts and offerings at various food booths. The event also featured a paper airplane flying contest and the finals of the 2001 Military Karaoke Contest.

On May 21, military spouses were recognized at Iolani Palace with a lunch on the palace grounds, and tours of the historic building. The Hale Koa Hotel also recognized the contributions of the military later that evening with discounted tickets to its Military Night at the Hale Koa Luau

Dinner Show.

Military Appreciation Week was brought to a close on May 23 with a closing ceremony and luncheon held in the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel’s Coral Ballroom. First Hawaiian Bank, Alexander & Baldwin Inc. and Matson sponsored the lunch.

During the ceremony, Adm. Blair addressed more than 200 uniformed servicemen and women.

“Although he did not have a lot of military time, Abraham Lincoln was one of our greatest wartime leaders.

When asked what he remembered about childhood memories of the war in 1812 he said nothing but this, ‘I had been fishing one day, I caught a little fish and I was taking it home. I met a soldier in the road and having always been taught to be good to soldiers, I gave him my fish.’ Our entire country must have held the armed forces in high esteem back then”.

Blair ended his speech with the simple statement of “mahalo,” to his shipmates, fellow service members and of course his Hawaiian neighbors.

According to its pamphlet distributed for the 16th Annual Military Appreciation Week, the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii established the annual military appreciation week program in 1985 to recognize and thank members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families for helping make Hawaii a safer and better place. It is made possible by generous contributions received from corporations, businesses, and private individuals.

The program is coordinated and directed by The Chamber’s Military Affairs Council and Armed Services Committee, with the assistance of military commanders and community relations officers in Hawaii.



JO3 Sunday Sawyer photo

Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Dennis Blair speaks at the Military Appreciation Week luncheon on May 23 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

By JO3 Sunday Sawyer